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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: December 16, 1998
Subject: Michigan Chrome and Chemical Removal Site, Detroit, Wayne
County, Michigan
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POLREP No.: 1 (Initial)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: B550
Delivery Order Numbers: 0011
Response Authority: CERCLA
Cerclis Number: MID005378161
NPL Status: No
MDEQ Notification: Yes
Latitude/Longitude: 42° 23' 50" North/83° 00' 5" West
Start Date: December 10, 1998
Completion Date: NA

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA removal site.

B. Site Description

1. Site location

The Michigan Chrome and Chemical (MCC) site is located in a mixed residential/industrial area at 8615 Grinnell Street, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan (42° 23' 50" North, 83° 00' 5" West). The site is approximately 6 acres in size and contains a nonoperational plating factory, warehouse, three small buildings (Erwin building, North Butler Hut, and South Butler Hut), and an outdoor area that is leased for storage purposes. The site is bordered to the south by Grinnell Street and industrial operations, to the east by industrial operations, to the north by industrial operations and Detroit Terminal railroad tracks, and

to the west by Erwin Street and industrial businesses. The property previously housed the MCC electroplating facility.

2. Description of threat

A site assessment was conducted on January 22, 1998, by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E & E) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START). The presence of flammable, corrosive, cyanide, and heavy metal containing materials at the MCC site pose a threat to public health and the environment from actual or potential exposure. The site is easily accessible to trespassers, and in several areas of the warehouse, there was evidence of trespassers in the building. The possibility of dermal contact, inhalation, or ingestion of cyanide containing powder material located on the floor of the warehouse creates exposure hazards to animals or humans.

C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

The site assessment found several small containers with flammable hazard labels, and corrosive hazard labels in the warehouse. Trenches and wastewater treatment tanks were set in the floor of the warehouse. Piles of unknown solid materials were present on the warehouse floor. An AST labeled as containing materials exhibiting corrosive characteristics was documented in the warehouse of the MCC site. An AST found outdoors, south of the Erwin building contained a solid material labeled as cyanide waste.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current situation

The U.S. EPA, START and the Environmental Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor Earthtech, Richmond, Virginia, and their subcontractor Marine Pollution Control (MPC), Detroit, Michigan, mobilized to site on December 10, 1998. Earthtech and MPC workers staged all of the small chemical containers on site in the plating room of the warehouse for sampling and hazard categorization purposes. A site sampling plan was developed and all sampling points have been sampled. Composite groups resulting from hazard categorization as well as various grab samples have been collected and sent for lab analysis.

2. Removal activities to date: December 10, 1998 - December 14, 1998.

On Thursday, December 10, 1998, U.S. EPA, START, and the ERRS contractor, Earthtech, and their subcontractor, MPC, mobilized to the site to begin removal activities. Earthtech workers moved chemical containers from all parts of the warehouse building to the plating room to stage for sampling. Label information on the chemical containers was documented on logs. A sampling plan was developed prior to sampling.

On Friday, December 11, 1998, START and the RM finalized the sampling plan for the site. Earthtech and MPC workers sampled the small containers staged in the plating room which were not labeled, for hazard categorization testing. START conducted air monitoring during the sampling activities of the unknown containers. Earthtech workers began sampling the trenches in the warehouse and the piles of powder located on the floor of the plating room.

On Saturday, December 12, 1998, Earthtech and MPC completed sampling activities at the site. Earthtech chemist conducted hazard categorization testing on unknown small container samples and on the liquid AST samples. The chemist took all samples into his custody, and developed a lab pack scheme.

On Sunday, December 13, 1998, the Earthtech crew, with the exception of the chemist, de-mobed from site.

On Monday, December 14, 1998, Earthtech chemist and START prepared the samples taken at the MCC site for transport to the laboratory for analyses.

On Tuesday, December 15, 1998, Earthtech chemist delivered the samples to the lab.

B. Planned Removal Activities

After the analytical data is available, crews will be remobilized. ERRS contractor Earthtech will arrange transportation and/or disposal of the ASTs, vats, trenches, tanks, drums, and containers on the site.

C. Next Steps

Anticipated remobilization following the lab work.

D. Key Issues

None.

V. COST INFORMATION

Estimated START costs as of 12/15/98 = \$6,800
Estimated ERRS costs as of 12/10/98 = \$4,829.06

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

No waste has been disposed of at this time.